turn to *classical examples!* A fine tale to tell of this nineteenth century and its England, that we turn to the poor old Roman as a god, just because it has been handed down an empty dogma—mere play upon big sound—*vox et prætereà* NIHIL—to turn to *classical precedent!* Put Bellori back into the book-case, Mr. Cockerell, and tell us what Mr. Cockerell *himself* says of the matter—he is better than a thousand Belloris.

Apart from the precedent portion of the letter (which must have looked supremely absurd in the uninitiated eyes of Mr. Bull, the shopkeeper) Mr. Cockerell gives us very full and excellent reasons against the contemplated atrocity. Other critics also have done it justice. It has been well canvassed; and I have nothing new to urge. But the reference to Antiquity I would not permit to pass in silence. For the uninitiated may think that we have no other argument to bring forward than this,—which they laugh at heartily, and which we would laugh at too

"If damned custom had not brazed us so
That we are proof and bulwark against sense."

The true criticism proceeds thus. The statue is—as we have it; and its *effect* is dependent on certain natural principles. The Arch is—as we have it; and its *effect* is dependent on certain natural principles. These are the facts of the Arch and the facts of the statue. The question is, Do the facts of the Arch and the facts of the statue agree together? The development of this is the whole criticism of the case. And the Arch and the statue do *not* agree. And the offence is even a double offence: One is not sacrificed to one, the statue to the completeness of the Arch, or the Arch to the dignification of the statue; but each is sacrificed to each,—the facts of the Arch mar the statue, the facts of the statue mar the Arch. However beautiful and valuable separate, together they are worthless and worse,—two organ-grinders grinding good and well ground tunes, but wretchedly in discord, each a hideous accompaniment to the excellent other!

In future war on the matter, then, for the sake of common sense, let there be no more absurd reference to *ancients*. If "the learned Thebans of the sub-committee" force us to fight, let us fight with the weapons of rationality and Truth, and throw the edgeless things of silly superstition behind us for ever and for aye,—they are encumbrances more than arms. Leave the clattering of brazen pans and the lifting up of death's heads to the simple Chinaman,—*we* must use the broadside and the boarding-pike. Leave the *dicta* of ancient Romans to such as may believe in Jupiter's amours, and the auguries of sacred entrails, and let Mr. Bull, who is a common-sense plain man, with a tolerable idea of plain logic, look at the matter in the light of common sense, and decide it by the rules of common argument.

And I will say this, that so long as Architects doggedly and stupidly persist in their absurd system of criticism by *precedent*, they have themselves to blame if the public pay little deference to their opinion, and sub-committees treat them as mere crotchetty fiddledeedeedum people to be *set aside* as best may be. Mr. Bull knows very well that precedent is nonsense. The Architect's province in this matter, is to employ his knowledge of the subject, to point out to Mr. Bull the facts of the case, that Mr. Bull may see them for himself and be satisfied for himself; not to produce Belloris, and medals, and Vitruvii, to show what *the ancients* did! What does Mr. Bull care for the ancients? What he wants is the common sense reason and truth of the matter.

ROBERT KERR. (R.)

PALACE AT CUDDESDEN, OXFORD.—Some extensive alterations and additions have been made at the Bishop's palace, at Cuddesden, under the direction of Mr. Ferrey, including a new chapel of the decorated period. The roof and fittings are of oak, and the windows filled with stained glass. The east window, by Willement, was presented by Prince Albert, the rest, by Warrington, Wailes, and O'Connor, were presented by the Archbishop of York and others. The same architect is building a new governor's house to the Oxford gaol; it is designed to form an angular tower, in keeping with the rest of the structure.

PROGRESS OF THE BATHS AND WASH-HOUSES IN WHITECHAPEL.

SIR,—Your observations in THE BUILDER of the 3rd instant, as to the delay in the completion of the building at Goulstone-square, are made in so fair a spirit, that I have no doubt of your publishing the following remarks on them:—

Of the two years which have passed since the public meeting at the Mansion House (October 16, 1846), nearly one year elapsed before a site could be obtained; and of course, before the working plans could be prepared. The railway mania then occasioned additional, and, so far as the committee are concerned, unavoidable delays, amounting to some months in the whole. During the progress of the works, the causes of delay to which you refer and others equally beyond the control of the committee, have operated to retard their completion; but I confidently submit, that even if a twelvemonth should be spent on them (which will not be the case), that would not be at all an unreasonable time; and I have no hesitation in expressing my conviction, that when they are completed, you will be perfectly satisfied that the committee have acted with great prudence in the course which they have pursued. It is of vastly greater importance, that they should spend a twelvemonth in producing what will really serve for a model, than that they should have an imperfect building opened some months sooner.

Your observations appear to proceed on the assumption that the building of baths and wash-houses is the main duty of the committee. That is by no means the case. They are "The Committee *for Promoting the Establishment* of Baths and Wash-houses for the Labouring Classes," and they have succeeded in promoting that object, to a degree far beyond the most sanguine expectations which most of the originators entertained at the outset. At first four model establishments were proposed to be erected by the committee. It was soon found that it would be impossible to raise subscriptions sufficient for this purpose; and it was thought that if the committee could show one model establishment, realizing such a profit as might tempt capitalists to erect others, they would have performed the building part of their duties. No pains to secure the most economical application of fuel (for which very careful experiments have been made), and the best arrangement of the apparatus, have been spared, and if the wash-house succeeds as well as that at Liverpool, and the baths as well as those at St. Pancras, the yearly net profits, after paying all expenses, will not be less than 18*l.* per cent. on the capital sunk. Let this result be proved, and we shall soon have no more lack of baths and wash-houses than we now have of breweries. That it shall be proved, the committee have spared themselves no labour, and will run no risk by making "more haste than good speed."

You refer to the St. Pancras baths and wash-houses, and also (though not by name) to those at Glasshouse-yard. Both are owing to the parent committee. On their recommendation, the St. Pancras committee was formed, as you may see by their own early circulars, and the Glasshouse-yard project originated in the parent committee.

By Sir Henry Dukinfield's Act, public baths and wash-houses are now to be numbered among our national institutions. That excellent clergyman is a member of the parent committee, and in his promoting of the measure he was cordially assisted to the utmost of their power by that committee. While it was pending in Parliament, they sent a copy of their petition in its favour, containing a general statement of the case, to every mayor, alderman, town councillor, and town clerk in England and Wales, to the editor of almost every newspaper in England, and to many thousands of others; and within one week after the royal assent was given to the Act, they published it (with notes explaining how it should be put in force), at such a low price as should put it within the reach of every rate-payer.

It is quite true that the labours of the parent committee during the last twelvemonth, have not brought them prominently before the public, and that their having rarely advertised may have led to the suspicion that they were doing but little. They have, however, been steadily and systematically at work, in performing their main duty of promoting the establishment of baths and wash-houses for the labouring classes. They have distributed throughout the whole kingdom, from Plymouth to Aberdeen, and from Portsmouth to Belfast, not less, I believe, than 70,000 circulars, of various sorts, calculated to explain their objects, and to gain converts to their cause; and to their efforts, with the invaluable assistance of the press, it is owing that the project of establishing cheap baths and wash-houses for the labouring classes—which in September, 1844, was, to the whole of the nation, except that inconsiderable fraction of it which knew what had been done in a small street in Liverpool, utterly unknown—had, in July, 1846, become so thoroughly well known and popular a topic, that it was alluded to on almost every hustings without exception, at the election consequent on the ministerial changes.

I will not occupy more of your space in defending the Parent Committee from the charge of negligence in the performance of their duties; but I will beg to add a few lines, in the hope of throwing out a hint of which you may make use.

A very careful estimate shews that the washing expenses of the metropolis, in the course of the year, amount to more than the property and income tax of the whole kingdom—considerably above 5,000,000*l.* a year. Why should not we have wash-houses for the middle classes as well as for the labouring classes? In time, trouble, and money, much might be saved to them by wash-houses constructed on the plan of those at Goulstone-square. I do not propose a washing company. That has been tried and failed. But might we not have washing accommodations supplied by companies? Do not let this hint be thrown away. Two years ago, half a crown was the ordinary charge for a warm bath; now you may have one for twopence, of which nearly one halfpenny is profit. The parent committee hope to shew that the actual cost of a warm bath need not exceed one penny. We are as yet in the infancy of the subject, and that 5,000,000*l.* a year is an untouched field. Let it be prudently broken up, and I am much mistaken if it will not be found to produce an abundant harvest to careful speculators. If the cost of bathing be reduced 1,500 per cent. why should not the cost of washing be reduced 20 per cent.? That would be a saving to London of more than 1,000,000*l.* a year; and if such a saving would not enable those who effected it to realize as good a profit as they now could by the best known commercial speculation, it must be from their taking less pains to fill their own pockets, than the parent committee have done to insure the success of their model establishment.—I am, Sir, &c.,

A MEMBER OF THE PARENT COMMITTEE.

October 8, 1846.

LECTURES ON ART.—At the Western Literary Institution on Thursday last, Mr. R. W. Buss, the artist, delivered a lecture on fresco, and the British school of historical Painting; and will complete the subject next Thursday. At the Islington Literary Institution, Mr. Samuel Nixon will give two lectures on modelling and sculpture, December 10th and 17th. At the same place on January 1st, Mr. John Hawksworth will read a paper on art, considered in its ancient, mediæval, and modern manifestations, with a view to the development of its prospective tendencies. On Tuesday, Nov. 3rd, at the Literary Institution, Newbury, Berks, Mr. George Godwin will lecture on the architecture of the middle ages. Professor Hosking commenced his course at King's College, on Tuesday last; and Professor Donaldson's will begin at the London University on Tuesday next.

ARCHÆOLOGY OF PALESTINE.—A prospectus of a new translation of "Josephus," to be illustrated by drawings of architectural remains, specimens of Jewish architecture, &c. by Mr. W. Tipping, has been issued by Messrs. Houlston and Stoneman, publishers. One of the specimen plates shews a colossal stone in the quarry at Baalbec 70 feet long, 14 broad, and 14 feet 5 in. deep!

NEW BRIDGE AT WESTMINSTER.—There is a rumour that it is intended to run the new bridge from the Duke of Northumberland's mansion at Charing-cross, to the bend in the Westminster-road forming the premises of Messrs. Atkinson.

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